Claims

1 An interactive graphics interface for display on a television screen said graphics interface generated from a plurality of data fields and characterised in that the graphics interface has at least three navigational axes, comprising a first display which displays a portion of one of the data fields and allows user navigation along X and Y axis of the same and a second display portion in the form of graphical icon which represents a number of said resident or server based functions, applications, or data fields and effectively allows navigation along the Z axis of said functions, applications or data fields.

2 An interface according to claim 1 characterised in that the first and second display portions are generated as an electronic programme guide (EPG) on a display screen.

3 An interface according to claim 1 characterised in that the navigation along the second display portion allows the selection of the data field from which the first display is generated.

4 An interface according to claim 1 characterised in that each of the three axes are selectively navigable by the user via a user input device.

5 An interface according to claim 4 characterised in that the input device is a remote control device.

6 An interface according to claim 1 characterised in that navigation along a selected axis allows a definable range of options to be selected, said option range indicated as part of the EPG display.

7 An interface according to claim 5 characterised in that navigation along each of the axes can be achieved by use of conventional key selections on the remote control device.

8. A method for displaying an interactive graphics interface on a display screen comprising:

receiving data organized in a plurality of data fields wherein the plurality of data fields are related to at least three navigational axis;

displaying in a first display view data organized in a first and a second navigational axis; and

displaying in a second display view data organized in a third navigational axis, wherein the data organized in the third navigational axis is related to data organized in the first and the second navigational axis.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the first display view is visually represented as an almanac with at least one tab related to at least one page in the Z axis.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising:

receiving an input from a user selecting at least one tab; and

indicating in the second display view motions and choices in a direction of the Z axis.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein the first display view and the second display view is generated as an electronic programme guide (EPG) on the display screen.

12. The method of claim 8 further comprising:

navigating along data organized in the second display view; and

selecting the data organized in the third navigational axis which is related to the data organized in the first and/or second navigational axis.

13. A method for displaying an interactive graphics interface on a display screen comprising:

receiving data relating to X and Y axis information for displaying on the display screen;

receiving data relating to Z axis information for displaying on the display screen;

displaying in a first display view within the display screen data relating to X and Y axis information; and

displaying in a second display view within the display screen data relating to the Z axis information, wherein the data relating to the Z axis information is related to the data relating to the X and/or Y axis information.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the data relating to the Z axis information is allocated to show and allow selection of a range of viewing options for the data relating to the X and/or Y axis information.

15. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

receiving commands from a user to navigate within the data relating to the X and/or Y axis information and the data relating to the Z axis information; and

mapping movement along the data relating relating to the Z axis information to movement in the data relating to the X and/or Y axis information.

16. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

receiving commands from a user to navigate in a direction through data relating to the Z axis information which results in changing the choices in the first display view.

17. The method of claim 13 wherein the first display view and the second display view is generated as an electronic programme guide (EPG) on the display screen.

18. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

navigating along data organized in the second display view; and

selecting the data relating to the Z axis information which is related to the data relating to the X and/or Y axis information.

19. A method for preparing data for displaying the data as an interactive graphics interface having X, Y, and Z axis information on a display screen comprising:

receiving data related to the X, Y, and Z information;

parsing the data related to the X, Y, and Z information;

associating indexes with the data relating to the X, Y, and Z information; and

mapping the indexes to the data relating to the X, Y, and Z information which is presented as choices in the X, Y, and Z axis.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the data relating to the X, Y, and Z information represents programming information.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein the data relating to the X, Y, and Z information is received in a flat unsorted array format.